

OLD COLONY RAILROAD

Commuter Rail

Congressman Brian Donnelly has pledged his "full support" to the restoration of commuter rail service between Boston's South Station and various cities and towns in Plymouth County.

Rail passenger service to South Station, via the former Old Colony Railroad lines, was halted in 1959 by the now defunct New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. A year later, the railroad bridge spanning the Neponset River burned, ending any immediate prospects for the resumption of rail service to the region.

"Over the past quarter-century, proposals to restore rail service have been studied," according to Donnelly, "but no substantive action has been taken.

"Through years of benign neglect, state transportation policy has reduced the residents of our region to the status of second-class citizens," Donnelly charged, citing the region's lack of commuter rail, freight rail and direct access to Logan International Airport.

The RRAILS (Restore Rail Service) coalition has proposed a three phase program for the restoration of Old Colony commuter rail service:

- I - Boston to Middleboro and Plymouth
- II - Addition of service to North Cohasset
- III - Addition of service to Greenbush

Funding would come from the 1983 federal gasoline tax which is expected to generate over \$1 billion a year for mass transportation construction.

"Residents of this region contribute to that \$1 billion a year," Donnelly said, "and I'll do my best to see that we get our share of the benefits."



